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REMARKS

Claims 1 has been amended to include features of claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled to track with the amendment. Claim 8 has been amended to include features of claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled to track with the amendment. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection. Claims 14 and 15 are new and supported by for example, Figs. 3 and 10. There is no new matter. Applicants acknowledge without traverse that claim 7 was withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-15 are pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application are requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Price (applicants respectfully note that the correct reference number for Price is GB 1546785). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Claim 1 has been revised to include the features of allowable claim 3. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Claim 2 should also be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 from which it depends. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (US 6354395) in view of Price (GB 1546785). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Claim 8 has been revised to include the features of allowable claim 10. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable. Claim 9 should also be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 8 from which it depends. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of claims 8 and 9.

New claims 14 and 15 are new and supported by the specification. Neither Cheng et al. nor Price teach for example a torque-transmitting worm wheel meshing with said driving worm at a first position and the auxiliary worm wheel meshing with said driving worm at a second position, wherein said second position is radially outside said first position. Further, neither Cheng et al. nor Price teach for example, an auxiliary worm wheel having teeth configured in an axial direction of an auxiliary worm wheel. Applicants request allowance of claims 14 and 15.

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In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.



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Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By:

Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/ajk/tk